



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON  
FOR THE YEAR 1956







ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON  
FOR THE YEAR 1956



Public Health Department,  
St. Paul's House,  
Taunton.

June, 1957.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,  
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fifth Annual Report for the year 1956.

The incidence of infectious disease during the year was low.

Very substantial progress has been made in the housing problem but much still remains to be done.

I wish to express my grateful appreciation to Alderman A. J. West, J.P., and the Public Health Committee for the unfailing help and consideration I have received and the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officials.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

LEO FAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1956.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres ... ..	2,434
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year) ...	34,050
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1956 (according to the rate books) ... ..	9,330
Rateable value at the end of 1956 ... ..	£53,635
Estimated product of a penny rate ... ..	£2,050

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Births, live legitimate	Male 248	Female 197	Total 445	
Births, live illegitimate	Male 14	Female 10	Total 24	
Births, still legitimate	Male 5	Female 5	Total 10	
Births, still illegitimate	Male —	Female —	Total —	
Birth rate, total, corrected by factor 0.99 ... ..				13.91
live                    „                    „                    „                    „				13.63
still                    „                    „                    „                    „				0.28
illegitimatae        „                    „                    „                    „				0.69
Deaths, Male 220, Female 221	...	...	...	Total 441
Death rate, crude ... ..				12.95
corrected by factor 0.84 ... ..				10.87
Deaths of infants under one year of age, Male 4, Female 3			Total	7
Infant Mortality rate ... ..				14.92
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age ... ..				—
Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..				—

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	—	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	3	4	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung ... ..	10	—	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	10	10
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	19	17	36
Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ..	—	1	1
Diabetes .. ...	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	28	29	57
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	38	24	62
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	2	7	9
Other heart disease ... ..	41	64	105
Other circulatory disease ... ..	7	14	21
Influenza ... ..	2	1	3
Pneumonia ..... ..	12	11	23
Bronchitis ... ..	20	10	30
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	4	—	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ... ..	2	2	4
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	1	1
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	12	14	26
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	5	2	7
All other accidents ... ..	3	4	7
Suicide ... ..	1	2	3
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956.

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Originally notified</i>	<i>Removed to I. Hospital</i>	<i>Corrected Numbers</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	28	1	28	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	11	—	11	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—							
Paralytic	...	...	...	2	2	2	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	1	1	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	70	—	70	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	1	5	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	5	—	5	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—							
Infective	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	6	3	6	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—							
Respiratory	...	...	...	15	—	15	2
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	3	—	3	—
Malaria (B.T.) contracted abroad...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

The incidence of infectious disease presented no special features during the year.



## POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases occurred in 1956, two of which were of the paralytic type.

The Council's quarantine scheme, which involves all domiciliary contacts being confined to the home and garden for three weeks, worked smoothly and effectively in all the three households affected.

Case	Children	Adults	Domiciliary Contacts
			Adults gainfully employed
1	5	3	1
2	1	4	4
3	2	2	1

Of the five wage earning adults who were quarantined, three had their wages made up wholly and one partly by their employers, and the remaining two by the Borough Council, less N.H. insurance in all cases (on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health).

In all three households complete co-operation was secured without any difficulty at all.

Thanks are due to the County Medical Officer for authorising the seconding of a Health Visitor to attend to each household. This service is an essential part of the scheme.

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE.

Only fifty children were inoculated against poliomyelitis during 1956 owing to shortage of supply of the vaccine.

It is clear that the supply of vaccine in 1957 will fall far short of the amount required.

The "Home and Garden" quarantine scheme which has operated both smoothly and efficiently should, in my opinion, be continued until such time as the supply of vaccine is sufficient to meet all demands.

## TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.56 ...	229 (227)	29 (33)
Number of new cases during the year ...	15 (36)	3 (6)
Number of deaths during the year ...	2 (4)	— (3)

(Figures in brackets are those of 1955)

## WATER SUPPLY

The total amount of treated water put into supply in the Borough and adjoining areas was 621 million gallons. Although it was not found necessary to cut the supply during the year, the rainfall being normal, the lack of filter and storage capacity, together with the ever-increasing demand, was responsible for an intermittent and inadequate supply in the higher reaches of the Borough and particularly in the more rural areas.

Further administrative progress has been made with the new water scheme which, however, cannot come into service until 1950.

The raw water is an upland surface water reasonably soft and with no plumbo solvent action. Before distribution it is subjected to sedimentation, filtration and chlorination, and the following table indicates the efficiency of the treatment, which results in a water which is extremely safe, although occasionally the chlorination slightly affects its palatability.

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
24	—	3	—	339	9	4	—

## MUNICIPAL SWIMMING BATH.

Although residual chlorine tests are taken regularly at the two pools with satisfactory results the Council are to be congratulated on their decision to instal break point chlorination in May, 1956. This measure will reduce the margin of error, and will also have the desirable effect of improving the colour of the water in the pools.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with during the year.

## HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Architect and the Housing Officer for the following tables:—

TABLE 1.

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1956		Programme for 1957	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
1,885	300	400	—

*Houses required:—*

To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	40
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions	...	...	...	...	...	889
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1956	...	...	...	...	...	1,269
Number of Council houses sold during the year	...	...	...	...	...	7

TABLE 2.

*Details of Post-War Houses:—*

						<i>Rent</i>
Temporary Bungalows	...	...	...	225		26/6
Permanent Bungalows	...	...	...	84		32/6
Woollaway Bungalows	...	...	...	1		32/6
Brick Bungalows	...	...	...	10		27/6
Bedsitting Room Flats	...	...	...	12		11/6
Four bedroomed houses	...	...	...	30		36/- - 34/6
Three bedroomed houses	...	...	1,077	34/- - 33/-	- 31/6 - 30/6	
Two bedroomed houses	...	...	259	30/6 - 29/6	- 28/6	
Two bedroomed flats	...	...	144	27/6 - 26/-	- 24/- - 16/6	
One bedroomed flats	...	...	40		20/- - 16/-	
Huts	...	...	...	—		
				1,882		

TABLE 3.

	Houses erected during 1956	In course of erection	Conversions
Local Authority ...	373	320	—
Private Enterprise	56	16 and +1 block of 3 flats	7

TABLE 4.

*Condemned houses still occupied:—*

Owned by the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	6
Under requisition powers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Let by the Council as agents for the owners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Licensed for occupation	...	...	...	...	...	17
Occupied continuously since date of Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	42

The Housing Committee are to be congratulated on their most impressive record during 1956. No less than 373 houses were completed in addition to 56 erected by private enterprise. Furthermore arrangements are well in hand for the completion of a further 300 during 1957. This is indeed substantial progress and a real contribution to the health of the town.

The Committee are, however, fully aware that the end of the road is not yet in sight. There are still 1,200 applications on the waiting list and it is considered that 800 of these are 100% genuine whose present plight fully merits action.

1. Houses to be completed between 1st January, 1957 and 31st December, 1957	...	...	...	...	299
2. Houses expected to be in contract between 1st January, 1957 and 31st December, 1957 but not completed	...	...	...	...	101
					400













## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Once more it has to be recorded that this valuable facility is not being used as much as one would like. Twenty-nine applications were approved and none were rejected.

The photographs which are included in this report indicate more vividly than can words the enormous improvements which can be achieved in making existing sub-standard houses conform to modern requirements.

In general, where these improvements are carried out, an old house is given a new lease of life by replacing the old zinc bath, outside W.C. and black cast iron cooking equipment with a well-lit kitchen, having cupboards and modern equipment, a new bath room with W.C. and ample hot and cold water supplies.

In addition to these most desirable improvements in the house, the utilisation of these grants is a very attractive economic proposition, as it retains houses in the centre of the town, near to the place of employment, which otherwise would inevitably be condemned in the not too distant future, involving costly rehousing on the periphery of the town.

### Improvements Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54

	Received		Approved		Rejected	
	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings
31.7.49—31 12.55	71	81	54	59	5	10
During year ...	21	21	29	29	—	—

Number of application approved in respect of owner/occupiers 75

Average cost per dwelling approved ... .. £159

## SICKNESS CLAIMS.

The attached graph shews the incidence of sickness claims during the year. The figures refer not merely to Taunton (for which separate statistics are not available) but for the districts for some few miles around. It had been hoped to break down the figures into causal diseases but this proved to be impossible other than on a national basis.

## HEALTH SERVICES

**Administered in Taunton M.B. by the Somerset County Council**

### Ante-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on Mondays (Assistant County Medical Officer in attendance) and Wednesdays (Midwives in attendance).

The attendances in 1956 were :—

				<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total attendances	...	...	...	359	1,024	1,383
New cases	...	...	...	181	152	333

### Post-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month. The attendances in 1956 were :—

Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

### Premature Baby Service

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-time children a special service is provided for premature infants. If there is a risk that a child will be born after less than 37 or 38 weeks' gestation arrangements are made for the admission of the expectant mother to Musgrove Park Hospital, where special facilities are available and special equipment is provided where necessary.

On the birth of a child it is visited at home, with the co-operation of the Health Visitors, by Assistant Nursing Officers with special training for this work.

During 1956, 24 premature infants were born in hospitals, of whom five died; seven were born at home, of whom two were removed to hospital. All survived.

### Home Visiting of Infants

This is carried out by four Health Visitors. Their work in 1955 included :—

First visits to children under five years of age	...	...	1,190
Re-visits to children under five years of age	...	...	6,523
Visits to ante-natal cases	...	...	18
Other visits (infectious diseases, old people, etc.)	...	...	438

8,169

## Infant Welfare Centres

There are now three held in the town:—

Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Halcon Chapel, on Wednesday afternoons.

Harcourt Street Adult School, on Friday afternoons.

During 1956 the attendances of infants at these centres totalled 6,098, including 432 new cases.

## Immunisation of Infants against Diphtheria

Year		Total "Primaries" under 5 years	Live births of preceding year, i.e., "potential"	Percentage immunised	Total "Primaries" 5-14 years	Total reinforce- ments
1956	...	413	429	96.27	44	328

The percentage of infants immunised shows a gratifying increase on the previous year. This is partly due to the absence of poliomyelitis and also a more intensive drive to secure a satisfactory rate. The private doctors and the Health Visitors concerned deserve much of the credit for these good results.

## Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, provided by the Ministry of Food, are distributed at the Welfare Centres. In addition valuable food accessories, such as certain proprietary brands of dried milk, breakfast cereals, rose hip syrup and malt extract, are distributed to mothers and children by the voluntary workers of the Taunton Infant Health Society.

## Orthopædic Clinic

This is held in the Health Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Surgeon attending twice a month. This service is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board but is administered on an agency basis by the Somerset County Council.

## Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children was as follows:—

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:—

(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,552
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	745

---

Total ... 2,297

---

(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	1,698
(3) Number offered treatment	...	...	...	...	1,070
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	1,101
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment including ortho- dontic patients	...	...	...	...	2,955
(6) Half-days devoted to :—Inspection 17. Treatment	391	...	...	...	408
(7) Fillings :—					
Permanent teeth	1,381.	Temporary teeth	108	...	1,489
(8) Number of teeth filled :—					
Permanent teeth	1,263.	Temporary teeth	94	...	1,357
(9) Extractions :—					
Permanent teeth	477.	Temporary teeth	1,252	...	1,729
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	393
(11) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	...	...	...	...	3
(12) Other operations :—					
Permanent teeth	414.	Temporary teeth	244	...	658

The treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children is shown below:—

				<i>Adults</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(1) Number of cases inspected	...	...	...	20	92
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	10	86
(3) Number of cases treated	...	...	...	13	76
(4) Number of attendances	...	...	...	53	139
(5) Administration of general anæsthetics	...	...	...	4	36
(6) Number of teeth extracted	...	...	...	14	117
(7) Number of teeth filled	...	...	...	2	10
(8) Number of fillings	...	...	...	2	13
(9) Scaling and gum treatment	...	...	...	4	—
(10) Silver Nitrate treatment	...	...	...	—	6
(11) Number of X-ray examinations	...	...	...	1	—
(12) Other treatment	...	...	...	6	37
(13) Dentures provided	...	...	...	8	—

### The Day Nursery

This is situated at Victoria Park, East Reach, and is open each weekday except Saturdays and public holidays.

Accommodation is provided from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a maximum of 30 children.

The average daily attendance during 1956 was 24.0, the vast majority of the children on the register belonging to the Priority 1 group.

## Home Help Service

This service is administered in the County Hall, Taunton.

During 1956, 223 Borough residents received assistance in their homes. These included the following types of cases:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	18
Old age and infirmity	...	...	...	...	...	92
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	49
Post operation	...	...	...	...	...	11
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	...	...	20
Families of children	...	...	...	...	...	2
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	...	25

Many of the above would have been unable to remain at home without the Home Help's assistance. This service has now been augmented by women who are prepared to sit up at night with the seriously sick.

## Ambulance Service

The main ambulance station and control for the south-west of the country is situated at Musgrove Park Hospital. The service provided is a 24-hour one. The station covers a fairly wide area in addition to the Borough and has a total establishment of:—

- 6 Ambulances.
- 3 Sitting-case Ambulances.
- 2 Cars.

The full-time staff employed at 31st December was:—

- 1 Station Officer.
- 3 Senior Drivers.
- 15 Driver/Attendants.

The following are the details of the patients carried and mileage run by these vehicles:—

Vehicles	Patients carried	Mileage run
Ambulances ...	7,892	63,032
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	10,388	67,476
Cars ...	7,204	53,758

With the exception of one ambulance used mainly as a reserve all vehicles at the Taunton Station are now equipped with radio.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## of the

### CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

#### for the year 1956

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the twelve months ending December, 31st 1956.

### SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

#### Housing and General Sanitary Work

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	161
Re-inspections ... ..	271
Infectious diseases, in connection with ... ..	25
Factories ... ..	72
Drainage, in connection with ... ..	368
Rodent Control (excluding visits made by Rodent Operator)...	76
Houses let in lodgings ... ..	5
Moveable dwellings ... ..	85
Stables, piggeries ... ..	7
Offensive trades ... ..	13
Smoke observations ... ..	44
Verminous premises ... ..	70
Common lodging houses ... ..	1
Refuse disposal, in connection with ... ..	1
Shops ... ..	94
Interviews ... ..	181
Cinemas and places of entertainment ... ..	5
Miscellaneous sanitary visits ... ..	93
Pet shops ... ..	8
Scrap metal dealers ... ..	2

#### Housing Repairs

The work of repairs to houses is still being dealt with under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year the following work was carried out :—



Premises cleansed or redecorated	...	...	...	5
Doors renewed	...	...	...	10
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	21
Ventilated food store provided	...	...	...	2
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	9
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	42
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	18
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	16
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	44
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	30
Dampness eradicated	...	...	...	15
Sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	14
Windows repaired	...	...	...	28
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	5
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	8
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	44
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	14
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	9
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	14
Drains cleared	...	...	...	17
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	...	2
Window cills renewed	...	...	...	2

### Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 12.

No action was taken under these sections during the year.

### Complaints

During the year 582 complaints were received at the Health Department. These complaints had reference to the following matters:—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	110
Drainage	...	...	...	...	76
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	171
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	81
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	96
Pests (Insects)	...	...	...	...	48

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

## **Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954—Section 6**

At the commencement of the year 25 houses that had been closed under Clearance Orders were being occupied under powers conferred by the above Act. During the year eight houses were closed as being unfit for further occupation, bringing the total number of houses occupied under the Act to 17.

## **Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24**

During the year 29 sewers were found to be choked, and were cleansed by the Corporation. Sewers dealt with under this section are those that were maintainable by owners of property under previous Public Health Acts.

## **VERMIN**

During the year, 48 premises were treated for various forms of insect pests with satisfactory results.

### **Rodent Control.**

The Corporation's Rodent Operator continued the systematic search for rodents, and treatment of premises where infestation was found. The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatment at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	199
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	996
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	51
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	222
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	...	7
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	44
Survey visits	...	...	...	...	590

### **Disinfection**

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the removal of patients suffering from Tuberculosis, or after death, was carried out to 15 houses.



## SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

### Public Health Act, 1936

Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive Trades—						
Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hide and Skin Depots	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	4
Moveable Dwellings—						
Sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Individual moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	20

### The Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Registered Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

### Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered under this Section	...	...	...	...	...	9
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

### Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences to keep pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The conditions prevailing at the above premises during the year were found to be satisfactory.

### Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

During the year 82 samples of the water at the St. James' Street Baths, taken at the inlet and outlet ends, were tested for residual chlorine. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

## FOOD INSPECTION

### Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods and food premises

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1,195
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	228
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	72
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	55
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	103

### Milk Supply

There are 14 registered dairies and 16 registered distributors of milk operating within the Borough. Two of the distributors operate from premises outside the Borough. Fourteen of the local distri-

butors hold licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and eleven hold licences to sell Pasteurised Milk, whilst two of the distributors from outside the Borough hold supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and one for Pasteurised Milk.

There are two milk pasteurising plants operating within the Borough, but these are controlled by the Somerset County Council.

### Sampling of Milk sold under Special Designations

During the year 41 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and 48 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk being sold within the Borough were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these 38 of the Tuberculin Tested samples and all the Tubrculin Tested (Pasteurised) samples were reported as being satisfactory. Three samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were reported as being unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory reports are referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for investigation.

### Ice Cream

The registrations of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream are as follows :—

Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	3
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and sale	...	...	...	...	105

### Sampling of Ice Cream

During the year, 60 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The results were as follows :—

					Hot mix	Cold mix
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	32	13
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	5	2
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	6	—
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	2	—

### Food Inspection

As a result of inspection of food at foodshops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned :—

## CANNED FOOD

Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	225	tins
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	3	"
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	15	"
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	6	"
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	27	"
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	26	"
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	168	"
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	14	"
Evaporated milk	...	...	...	...	...	10	"
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	3	"
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	72	"
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	16	"
Mixed vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	5	"
Fruit juice	...	...	...	...	...	5	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	17	"

## OTHER FOODS

Pickled onions	...	...	...	...	...	18	jars
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	3	"
Puff pastry	...	...	...	...	...	3	pkts.
Pies	...	...	...	...	...	4	"
Frozen ducks	...	...	...	...	...	10	"
Chickens	...	...	...	...	...	4	"
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	26	lbs.
Pork sausages	...	...	...	...	...	56	"
Beef sausages	...	...	...	...	...	59	"
Boiling fowls	...	...	...	...	...	23½	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	6	pkts.
Sandwich spread	...	...	...	...	...	4	jars
Bath Chaps	...	...	...	...	...	6	pkts.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

### Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted for offences against the above Act during the year.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

With the introduction of these Regulations which came into force on the first of January, the whole field of inspection of food premises has been greatly extended and now includes many premises which were not formerly the subject of routine visits. The Regulations are an improvement on Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 as they put responsibility for nearly all the provisions on the

Occupier; and they now include provisions covering such items as separate washhand basins and sinks, provision of first-aid materials, notification to the Medical Officer of Health of certain infections likely to cause food poisoning, locker accommodation, keeping of certain foods at proper temperatures and the more stringent control of stalls and meat transportation.

In Taunton there are nearly three hundred food premises of all kinds, and as much time as possible is being set aside for their inspection. However, with many other duties to carry out, it will be some while before all the initial visits (involving a thorough and detailed inspection of all food rooms, equipment and techniques at each food premises) are completed. During the year 104 premises were inspected involving a total of 464 visits.

Generally speaking it was found that many occupiers were well informed as to the Regulations, and in some instances had anticipated our requests and had even gone beyond what was legally required. For the rest it was found that an informal letter was sufficient to secure the necessary compliance, and in no instance was it found necessary to resort to statutory action. So far as a result of the inspections 6 firms have carried out major structural works of improvement, and the remainder of the various works carried out are detailed in the schedule which follows.

# Summary of works carried out at all premises in 1956.

	Butchers & Fish- mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Green- grocers	Catering Establish- ments	Licensed Premises	Total
<b>Food Rooms.</b>						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	5	2	1	5	1	14
Walls redecorated ...	8	2	3	5	1	19
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	—	—	4	—	1	5
Ceilings redecorated ...	2	1	—	5	1	9
Floors repaired or renewed ...	2	—	—	1	2	5
Improvement of lighting ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Improvement of ventilation ...	—	—	1	—	2	3
Drainage renewed or repaired ...	4	2	—	1	—	7
<b>Equipment, Etc.</b>						
New sinks provided ...	1	1	—	4	2	8
Hot water supply provided ...	3	1	—	3	1	8
New drainage boards provided ...	—	—	—	6	—	6
Preparation tables re-topped ...	5	1	—	14	—	20
New equipment, etc., provided ...	10	1	3	4	1	19
Dustbins provided ...	6	5	8	7	—	26
Means of protection of food pro- vided ...	4	2	10	3	—	19
Stainless steel tables provided ...	11	—	—	—	—	11
New refrigerators provided ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
<b>Sanitary Accommodation.</b>						
New W.C.s or urinals installed ...	—	—	—	2	6	8
New flushing cisterns provided ...	—	—	—	—	3	3
Sanitary accommodation repaired ...	1	2	5	3	1	12
Sanitary accommodation redecor- ated ...	—	2	6	1	—	9
Improved lighting ...	4	—	1	—	2	7
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	17	5	15	8	6	51
Intervening ventilated space pro- vided ...	—	1	2	—	—	3
<b>Toilet Accommodation.</b>						
Wash-hand basins provided ...	5	4	7	2	4	22
Hot water supply provided ...	8	6	11	7	4	36
Toilet requisites provided ...	5	2	6	1	1	15
Redecoration of toilet accommoda- tion ...	1	1	1	1	—	4
Provision of locker accommodation ...	1	1	1	1	—	4
Provision of paper towels ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>Miscellaneous.</b>						
Protective clothing provided ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Treatments for vermin ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Fly destruction units fixed ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Provision of first-aid materials ...	2	3	1	7	1	14
Cleansing of premises ...	—	2	—	2	—	4
Totals ...	105	48	67	94	42	356

## Meat Inspection.

The slaughtering of food animals is carried on in three licenced slaughterhouses and a bacon factory.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	2,003
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	512
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	9,470
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	2,568
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	31,186

The inspection of the above carcasses revealed disease at set out in the following table :—

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep, Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,003	512	2,568	9,470	31,186
Number inspected	2,000	512	2,568	5,000	31,186
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	4	2	7	14	46
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	834		25	550	1,151
Percentage of number inspected * affected with disease other than T.B.	33.39%		1.2%	10.4%	3.8%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	2	—	—	16
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	154		1	—	2,250
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	6.3%		.03%	—	7.2%

\*The percentage of diseases other than T.B. in cattle is greatly distorted by the prevalence of flukes in bovine livers.

In addition, the following meat was condemned on butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes :—

Home-killed Beef	...	...	...	231 lbs.
Home-killed Pork	...	...	...	95 lbs.
Home-killed Mutton	...	...	...	64 lbs.
Imported Beef	...	...	...	295 lbs.



## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### 1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	28	10	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	230	62	8	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises) ...	19	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to outwork) ... ..	13	13	—	5	—
TOTAL ... ..	16	16	—	7	—

## OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 110		Section 111	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel ...	503	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



# METEOROLOGICAL READING FOR 1956

Month	Barometer		Thermometer			Sunshine		Rainfall					
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Max. Reading	No. of Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain fell	Days with 0.04in. or more	Max. Reading
January	29.98	30.50	28.74	40.02	55	18	53.75	5.75	11	2.98	18	12	.62
February	30.25	30.68	29.72	31.60	53	7	80.25	8.25	7	.19	6	3	.07
March	29.92	30.48	29.16	43.00	61	18	129.75	11.0	3	.85	8	5	.28
April	29.93	30.30	29.46	44.90	67	25	176.25	11.75	2	1.81	10	5	.67
May	30.16	30.44	29.80	53.30	73	29	263.25	14.75	—	.28	5	3	.13
June	30.06	30.47	29.48	57.63	76	35	187.5	14.25	2	.99	12	8	.27
July	29.94	30.38	28.89	61.86	81	41	203.5	15.5	2	2.18	11	10	.42
August	29.82	30.36	29.27	57.66	72	38	189.5	11.25	1	2.04	20	13	.58
September	29.91	30.25	29.52	58.31	74	39	80.75	8.5	4	4.93	15	11	1.38
October	30.11	30.45	29.79	50.32	65	29	111.0	7.75	3	1.47	11	7	.69
November	30.15	30.54	29.58	43.03	58	23	58.75	5.0	8	.62	11	5	.22
December	30.02	30.47	29.35	43.52	57	25	18.75	5.0	22	4.24	22	14	.83
TOTAL	30.00	—	—	48.76	—	—	1 553.0	—	65	22.58	149	96	—





# NEW CLAIMS TO SICKNESS BENEFIT 1956.







